

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper supplements Applicants' December 5, 2007 response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2007. Although no fee is believed due, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any and all deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for a thorough consideration of the claim amendments presented in the Applicants' previous response. Although Applicants respectfully disagreed with the rejections in the Office Action, Applicants nonetheless have endeavored to amend the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the present application by further emphasizing certain aspects of the claims, as set forth herein. Applicants respectfully assert, however, that the claim amendments presented are not intended as, and should not be interpreted as, the surrender of any subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue any previously submitted claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

The claim amendments presented herein are fully supported throughout the Specification. (See, e.g., paragraph [0041], especially lines 5-10; see also paragraph [0061].) No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments presented.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the

Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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